

Dear State Stakeholder:

The Manufacturing Extension Partnership Program is pleased to present our first edition of the NIST MEP State Stakeholder Newsletter. The quarterly electronic newsletter provides information on interesting state initiatives, findings from studies focused on current state activities, partnerships, and economic development activities, and impacts and highlights from the MEP program. For more information on these activities or to explore collaborations within your state, please contact NIST MEP at 301-975-5020 or visit our website at <http://www.mep.nist.gov/>. If you do not wish to receive the quarterly newsletter, please respond to the e-mail with your request to be removed from the mailing list.

NIST MEP State Stakeholder Newsletter

February 2006

1. Pennsylvania Growth Strategies and Technology Development

The Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development recently released the [2005 TechFormation Report](#), a status report that offers growth strategies for technology-based economic development in the state. TechFormation 2005 is the flagship report with more focused reports being issued approximately every 6 months on sectors such as the life sciences, manufacturing, Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) awards, etc.

2. The Manufacturing Extension Partnership Generates Significant Impact for Small Manufacturers

Recently released data collected by an independent survey of 4,644 clients served by MEP in FY 2004 demonstrates the on-going impact the MEP program continues to generate. With clients reporting \$1.889 billion in new sales, over \$721 million in cost savings, and \$941 in increased investment all attributed to the program's assistance. Additional information on the FY 2004 impacts as well as FY 2005 activities is available at <http://www.mep.nist.gov/making-difference-Jan2006.pdf>.

3. Kilmer Named New Director of NIST's Manufacturing Extension Partnership Program

Roger D. Kilmer has been appointed director of the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) Program at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST).

Mr. Kilmer has been with the MEP Program since 1993 and with NIST since 1974. Previously, Mr. Kilmer was the MEP Deputy Director responsible for internal operations, programmatic coordination, and policy review of all activities. Prior to the MEP Program, Mr. Kilmer was the Deputy Division Chief of Robot Systems in the NIST Manufacturing Engineering Laboratory responsible for managing research programs involving real-time sensor-based control of intelligent machines. Mr. Kilmer was also Group Leader of Robot Systems Integration,

managing research and development programs with manufacturing and military applications including robotic deburring, automated lay up of thermoplastic composites, robotic safety systems, robotic handling of munitions, and unmanned land vehicles operations.

Mr. Kilmer received the Department of Commerce Silver Medal Award for leadership as the NIST MEP liaison to the interagency Technology Reinvestment Project (TRP) initiative and the Bronze Medal for superior leadership of NIST's unmanned ground vehicle robotics program. Mr. Kilmer holds a Master of Science and a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from Pennsylvania State University.

4. Recent Congressional Innovation Initiatives

Late in 2005, several key initiatives focused on innovation were announced. The first, [The Innovation Agenda: A Commitment To Competitiveness to Keep America #1](#) was unveiled in mid-November by Nancy Pelosi (D- CA) and focuses on several key areas, including a commitment to research and development that promotes public-private partnerships, achieving energy independence in 10 years, and fostering small business innovation through programs like the MEP and SBIR.

Legislation introduced by Senators Lieberman (D-Conn) and Ensign (D-Nev) responds to recommendations contained in the National Innovation Initiative Report published by the Council on Competitiveness. [The National Innovation Act of 2005 \(S. 2109\)](#) focuses on improving U.S. innovation through 1) research investments, 2) increasing science and technology talent, and 3) developing an innovation infrastructure. Specifically, the legislation tasks the Department of Commerce with publishing a "Guide to Developing Successful Regional Innovation Hot Spots" with a focus on identifying key features of successful hot spots and recommending mechanisms for the creation of new regional collaborations. The bill also authorizes NIST to develop state-of-the-art advanced manufacturing practices focused on improving advanced distributed and desktop manufacturing capabilities and applying nanotechnology to manufacturing. The bill supports Pilot Test Beds of Excellence for the development and testing of prototypes and the acceleration of new technologies into application.

5. MEP and America's Community Colleges: Enhancing the Partnership

The Center for Regional Economic Competitiveness (CREC) recently conducted a survey of the nation's community colleges to learn more about their custom-designed or specialized industry training offerings as well as to gain a better understanding about the relationship between MEP and community colleges. The survey found the most common types of specialized training programs offered include those for business, management & finance-related occupations with about 56 percent of the responding colleges indicating they offer specialized training for production or manufacturing workers. In addition, of the 213 responding colleges that offered some form of training or education for manufacturing and production-oriented occupations, about 55 percent acknowledge some form of relationship with their state MEP program. Of all the colleges reporting some form of relations, many receive training referrals, conduct joint visits to client companies, serve on the MEP board, or co-locate staff with the MEP. A summary of

the report is available at: <http://www.mep.nist.gov/NIST-CC-Survey-121405-v1-MEP-summary.pdf>. The full report is available at: <http://www.creconline.com/ccsurvey.pdf>.